

PITH AND POINT.

Men and wagons rattle most when there is nothing in them.—Chicago Daily News.

When everything else fails, people can still quarrel over religion and medicine.—Aitchison Globe.

May—"How do you like my new photograph?" Eva—"It's very pretty. Who shot it?"—Town Topics.

The trouble is when a man admits that he is a crank, he always qualifies it by saying he is glad of it.—Washington (La.) Democrat.

"Your wife has such a terribly tired look, old man!" "Yes, to-morrow night it will be her turn to entertain the Don't Worry club, to which she belongs."—Detroit Journal.

"Doctor," said the student of medicine to his teacher, "what should I do to prevent a student from dying on my hands?" "As soon as you are convinced that the case is hopeless, be sure to recommend a change of climate."—Town Topics.

Grimes—"Going to buy a bookcase? Aren't you getting extravagant?" Stone—"I suppose so, but there's only one alternative. The house is lumbered up with borrowed books until they are a nuisance. I've just got to buy a bookcase or turn the books."—Boston Transcript.

All From Experience—"Pardon me, sir," said the interviewer to the great actor, "but it has been said that one can never portray an emotion forcefully until he has experienced it. Yet you gave a marvelous performance in the starvation scene to-night." "Ah," observed the great actor, "I played one-night stands in an Uncle Tom company for ten seasons."—Baltimore American.

DUE TO LOSS OF NERVE.

Unaccountable Fright Which Sometimes Seizes Upon Trick Performers at Critical Moment.

"Joe Stark, the trick cyclist who was killed doing a high dive in New York the other day, traveled for a season with Davis' circus," said a sporting man recently to a New Orleans Times-Democrat reporter. "I was with the show at the same time, on the business staff, and I got to know Joe very well. I see by the papers that his death was due to a miscalculation of over 30 feet in the dive, and the reporters are wondering how in the world he could have made such a blunder. To anyone acquainted with performers of his class, however, the thing is no mystery. They are all subject to queer spells of panic, that come without any particular reason, and then they temporarily for business. If a man persists in doing his act at such a time, the consequences are altogether a matter of chance, and the majority of the accidents within my recollection have been attributable to that cause. While I was in the show business I witnessed several striking instances of this mysterious loss of nerve, perhaps the most remarkable being that of a little Englishman who did a very sensational act on the flying trapeze. He had two bars suspended at opposite sides of the ring, about 40 feet from the ground, and finished his performance with the feat that is called 'Tehelle,' in the slang of the circus. I don't know where the word comes from, but in doing the 'turn' the gymnast swings as far as he can on one trapeze, lets go, throws a somersault and catches the other, the danger depending on the distance he travels through the air.

"The Englishman was a slow-spoken, rather stupid little fellow, who had been brought up in the ring and was as nearly destitute of emotion as anybody I ever saw. His habits were excellent, like those of professional athletes, and he did his work with a mechanical precision that almost excluded the possibility of a mishap. One night his helper got drunk, and I went with him to the little aerial platform from which he took his long swing, for the purpose of holding back the bar while he got ready to launch himself into space. As I was busy myself with the ropes I heard him groan and, looking around, was thunderstruck to see him as white as a sheet and trembling like a man with the ague.

"What's wrong, Fred?" I whispered. "Oh, Lord!" he said between his teeth. "I'm just in a funk, an awful funk!" I was so astonished I could hardly credit my senses, but I realized that something would have to be done to prevent a fiasco that would ruin him in the business. "Pretend you've sprained your arm," I said, "and leave the rest to me. Now, let's get down quick." He was so unnerved he could hardly descend the rope ladder, and the audience began to buzz with surprise. I sent him to the dressing tent and said a few words to the ringmaster, who made a little speech explaining that Mr. had injured his arm climbing to the platform and would be obliged to omit his usual finale. Later on I found the poor fellow lying on his costume trunk sobbing like a child, but next morning he was all right, and I never knew him to have another seizure.

You may rest assured that Joe met his death through just such an unaccountable collapse. It probably took him as he started to make his dive and pride forbade him to hold back.

Chinese Geographical Names.
The confusion of Chinese names is appalling, and the foreigners who did them over into their own tongues added to the confusion. There has been the greatest variance in the spelling and the pronunciation of geographical names, and the newcomer who struggles with the problem finds his mentality blurred. The foreign armies have fallen into the confusion, and each goes on spelling names by whichever method the fancy elects. None of the war maps agree, and there does not seem to be any means or desire to make them harmonize. The Chinese themselves have an excellent system of applying geographical names that are descriptive, but it has the drawback of leading to endless duplication. The commonest dispute here is over "G" at the end of the name Peking. A good hostile argument on the subject can be stirred up whenever men congregate.—Paris Letter.

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Shell the corn and soak it till soft, but not sprouted, and feed it to the sows and their pigs, scattered on the floor, where they will eat it slowly and masticate it all. But do not feed it in troughs, the sow will get the lion's share, will bolt it to disadvantage, and the pig's too. Then store the cobs to be burned to charcoal later.—Barnum's Midland Farmer.

Live Stock on the Farm.
If the animals on a farm are considered as customers, and everything they consume is charged against them, the value of the "home market" will be appreciated. No farmer ever fed an animal because he intends to give such food free of cost. He looks forward to the time when the animal is expected to pay for what it receives. The live stock offers a market for many articles that could not profitably be shipped, and if the animals only paid for the food they received, with no extra profit, the farmer would succeed in selling much waste material in that manner.

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AGRICULTURAL HINTS.

A COVERED BARNYARD.

Handy for the Storage of Manure and a Run Under Cover for Cattle in Winter.

The shaded part of the accompanying cut (Fig. 1) shows an addition to an old barn that gives a covered space for the storage of manure and a run under cover for cattle in winter, while providing also a large amount of storage room above the hay or other fodder. This addition is built upon the old barn.

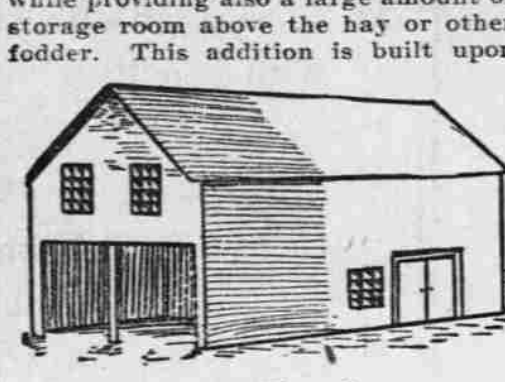


Fig. 1. ADDITION TO BARN.

the end of the barn that contains the cattle quarters, bringing these adjacent to the covered barnyard. A basement barnyard is shown in Fig. 2.

A covered barnyard of this sort at small expense can be had by those who have basements under their barns, or who have barns so located that they can be raised and basements thus secured. The side toward

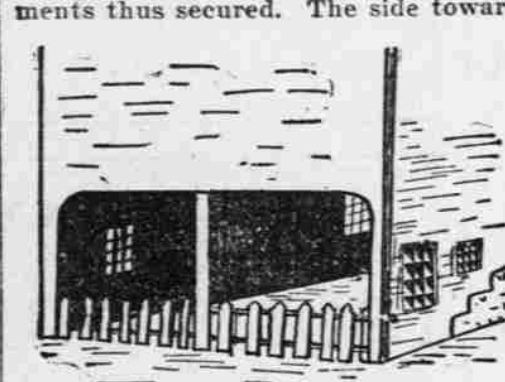


Fig. 2. BASEMENT BARNYARD.

the south can then be left open, insuring a warm place for cattle to get the air, and a place for the storage of manure where it will not lose any of its valuable qualities. The manure can be spread over the basement floor daily—a little straw or other litter thrown over it, when the cattle will keep it packed tightly down. The idea is illustrated in Fig. 2.—N. Y. Tribune.

PROFITABLE PRACTICE.

Soaking Corn for Feeding Is Said to Result in the Saving of 20 Per Cent. of Grain.

For two years we have soaked all the corn fed to hogs, whether shelled or on the ear, writes O. C. Wiggins, Charlotte county, Va., in the Southern Planter. We were led to the practice by the reports of experiments made by the Kansas experiment station.

I take it that the chief advantage in soaking corn lies in the better mastication which the animals give the kernels. I find that the teeth of pigs soon become sore when fed continuously on hard corn. When fed on the ear, the front teeth become so sore that they can hardly shell it. The excrements of animals fed on dry corn contain a large proportion of undigested fragments. This is apparent to the most casual observer.

All last year we had been feeding our horses and mules on soaked corn with decided gain. Many horses have a vicious habit of bolting their grain, while old animals have faulty teeth, which prevent them from crushing hard grain.

I believe we are saving twenty per cent. of grain by this simple practice.

We never allow the soaked corn to become sour. It is well to have two barrels to use on alternate days. If the weather be very hot, the corn should not remain in soak more than 12 hours. In cool weather it may remain 24 hours or longer. Nothing can so certainly and quickly derange the digestive organs of any animal and throw it off its feed as sour corn or meal.

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Live Stock on the Farm.
If the animals on a farm are considered as customers, and everything they consume is charged against them, the value of the "home market" will be appreciated. No farmer ever fed an animal because he intends to give such food free of cost. He looks forward to the time when the animal is expected to pay for what it receives. The live stock offers a market for many articles that could not profitably be shipped, and if the animals only paid for the food they received, with no extra profit, the farmer would succeed in selling much waste material in that manner.

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STAY ON THE FARM.

There Is No Place on Earth Where a Man Can Enjoy More Freedom or Comfort.

The question of farmers moving to town will admit of considerable discussion, but we take the side in favor of staying on the farms. There is no place on earth that man may enjoy more freedom, more fresh air, and better "grub," than right out on a quarter section of land, located at a convenient distance from good markets. What is there more enjoyable than looking among bunches of young swine, selecting the ones you think nearer your ideal, or watching calves and colts playing in the lots, frisking about and enjoying the sunlight? What is nicer than to see a hen with a flock of young chicks, each of one color, scratching for bugs, etc., each one busy and seeming to enjoy itself to a very high degree? What farmer does not love to see crops growing, from the time they first peep above the ground until the final stage of maturity is reached? People of ripe, old age may take more enjoyment in living in town, where everything is more handy, where they have their mail more regularly, and where they are not burdened with the cares of a farmer's life; but even this class might derive more real pleasure on the farm where there is more quiet than in town, where there is always more or less (generally more) noise, and a general hustle and bustle. Another point in favor of living on the farm is the rearing of a family of children. Notice, if you will, the strong probabilities of city boys getting into bad company, and forming such habits as their parents would blush to have them become acquainted with. While the lads of the country do not come in contact with so many of these things, yet they find out enough sometimes to do them a great amount of harm. We would not try to elevate ourselves above our friends in town, but we do believe children are more apt to form habits through evil associations in the alleys and back streets of a town life than is probable in connection with a farm life. We do not consider ourselves authority on this subject, but simply write our thoughts in connection therewith, hoping it may cause some one to pause before leaving the farm in an effort to better his condition in the world. The farmer feeds the world. Just think! All the multitudes of earth live from the labor of the so-called "hayseed," and why should we think ourselves above such work? So I would say, stay on the farm.—W. W. Young, in Prairie Farmer.

SEED WHEAT KERNELS.
Upon their Careful Selection Depends, in a Great Measure at Least, the Resulting Crop.

Great possibilities lie in the development of seed wheat. Constant selection of the largest kernels will have a constant tendency to improve the seed and the resulting crop. Some experiments were carried on in France to determine to what extent the crop could be improved by such a selection. Though the process was carried on for only three years, the results were apparent. The experiment was tried in two directions, always selecting the largest seeds for one crop and the smallest seeds for another. At the end of three years the yield on the plots planted with the large seeds was very marked over the plots that had been planted with the small seeds. Also the large wheat grains had more vigor and developed much more rapidly than did the others, and the crop matured earlier.

The same experiment was carried on at the same time a parallel experiment. He selected for one lot the grains that developed soonest on the heads, and for another lot selected the grains that matured latest on the heads. In three years he had two crops growing side by side, one of them maturing six days ahead of the other.

FARM TOOL CARRIER.
What an Ingenious Man Can Do with a Long Box and an Old Wheelbarrow Wheel.

The cut shows a long box, to which handles have been nailed and an old wheelbarrow wheel added. Into this go small tools, hoes, shovels, etc., together with fertilizer and any small

articles needed, and all wheeled to the garden or field, where crops are being planted. The top of this box can be made watertight. It can then be left in the field with the tools in it until the work is done.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Fighting the Grain Weevil.
Is the grain in the bins troubled with weevils or other evils? Bismuthide of carbon is sure preventive of their ravages. About one ounce of it is a sure death to all that would be in a hundred pounds of grain and other stored products of that size just thrust down into the surface and uncorked will go to the bottom of the bin, as its fumes are heavier than air. As it is explosive, take care not to carry any light near it. It is also sure death to other insects and to squirrels and rats. Do not use more than the above amount. It can be purchased at almost any drug store.—Rural World.

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SHE DECLINED.

Gave the Sutor to Understand That She Was Not in the Patching Business.

Few American youth have careers made for them. Those who deplore this fact and who dream of self-effort may find tonic in the reply of a western girl to an offer of marriage, says Youth's Companion.

A young man of more book-learning than force of character lost the young wife who had toiled to support him, returned to his native town for consolation, and found it. Some months later, too, passed away, and the sad youth soon appealed to a well-known clergyman for assistance in finding a helpmate.

The minister introduced him to a western girl of health and energy, who the next day received a plaintive note from the widower. He declared that the Lord had made great inroads upon his mortal affections, and it now seemed to be His will that she should repair the breach of his life.

The reply, which the clergyman keeps to this day as one of the choicest specimens of a varied collection, reads simply: "A young man of more book-learning than force of character lost the young wife who had toiled to support him, returned to his native town for consolation, and found it. Some months later, too, passed away, and the sad youth soon appealed to a well-known clergyman for assistance in finding a helpmate.

Encouraged.
Jane—it is always a surprise to me what a lot of lonely women get married. The reply, which the clergyman keeps to this day as one of the choicest specimens of a varied collection, reads simply: "A young man of more book-learning than force of character lost the young wife who had toiled to support him, returned to his native town for consolation, and found it. Some months later, too, passed away, and the sad youth soon appealed to a well-known clergyman for assistance in finding a helpmate.

CLEANINGS OF FACT.
Britain makes 300,000,000 yards of linen a year.

Craig-Nos, the name of Mme. Adeline Patti's castle in Wales, means rock of the night.

A St. Louis negro has devised an elevator in which a screw takes the place of weights and pulleys.

Five alligators in a Milwaukee show died of pneumonia one day recently.

The first iron war vessel built in the world was the United States steamship Michigan, which is still on duty on the great lakes, and has often been seen in Chicago.

The annual report on the Michigan state penitentiary at Jackson shows a total population of 720, the lowest in 23 years. The tailors' shop had but one man at work.

The town of Eatonville, Fla., has 1,200 inhabitants, with not a single white among them. It has its full quota of public officials, a bank and other business establishments requisite in a town of its size.

A VETERAN SPEAKS.

The Honorable Moses B. Crane of Tacoma, Wash., Tells How Old Soldiers May Help Themselves.

TACOMA, Wash., Jan. 21, 1901.—(Special.)—"I used to have Heart Disease," but thanks to Dodd's Kidney Pills I have Heart's Ease.

"Five years ago, I was a continual sufferer of Heart Disease. Exposure during the war, and a tendency to grow over-fleshy had greatly aggravated this dread disease. I often had to sit up half the night, I had it so bad when I would lie down. Life looked pretty blue to me, as I thought there was no hope for me. I read an advertisement of Dodd's Kidney Pills. I bought a box that same day, and it was the best day's work I ever did. Before I had used all the first box I could eat and sleep better than I had done for many years, and after three months faithful treatment my health was completely restored. I am an old man now, but my step is as elastic and my brain as clear as when I was thirty years of age."

These are the words of the Hon. Moses B. Crane, secretary of Odin Lodge, No. 123, I. O. O. F., of this city. The Hon. Mr. Crane is also Senior Vice-Commander of G. A. R. Post No. 5, Tacoma.

Those who know Mr. Crane have the fullest confidence in his honesty and truthfulness, and know that he would not give this unsolicited testimonial unless he had actually experienced the relief which he indicates in his letter. Dodd's Kidney Pills are having a wonderful sale among Mr. Crane's friends—and their name is legion—in this part of the country. There does not seem to be a single case of Heart Disease, Kidney or Bladder Weakness, or Rheumatism, that Dodd's Kidney Pills do not permanently cure.

THE MARKETS.
New York, Jan. 22.

CATTLE—Native Steers... 4 1/2 @ 5 1/2
COTTON—Middling... 15 1/2 @ 16 1/2
FLOUR—Winter Wheat... 3 1/2 @ 4 1/2
WHEAT—No. 2 Red... 74 1/2 @ 75 1/2
CORN—No. 2... 31 1/2 @ 32 1/2
OATS—No. 2... 21 1/2 @ 22 1/2
PORK—Mess... 13 1/2 @ 14 1/2
LARD—Choice... 10 1/2 @ 11 1/2

ST. LOUIS.
CATTLE—Native Steers... 4 1/2 @ 5 1/2
COTTON—Middling... 15 1/2 @ 16 1/2
FLOUR—Winter Wheat... 3 1/2 @ 4 1/2
WHEAT—No. 2 Red... 74 1/2 @ 75 1/2
CORN—No. 2... 31 1/2 @ 32 1/2
OATS—No. 2... 21 1/2 @ 22 1/2
PORK—Mess... 13 1/2 @ 14 1/2
LARD—Choice... 10 1/2 @ 11 1/2

CHICAGO.
CATTLE—Native Steers... 4 1/2 @ 5 1/2
COTTON—Middling... 15 1/2 @ 16 1/2
FLOUR—Winter Wheat... 3 1/2 @ 4 1/2
WHEAT—No. 2 Red... 74 1/2 @ 75 1/2
CORN—No. 2... 31 1/2 @ 32 1/2
OATS—No. 2... 21 1/2 @ 22 1/2
PORK—Mess... 13 1/2 @ 14 1/2
LARD—Choice... 10 1/2 @ 11 1/2

NEW ORLEANS.
FLOUR—High Grade... 3 1/2 @ 4 1/2
COTTON—Middling... 15 1/2 @ 16 1/2
FLOUR—Western... 3 1/2 @ 4 1/2
WHEAT—No. 2... 74 1/2 @ 75 1/2
CORN—No. 2... 31 1/2 @ 32 1/2
OATS—No. 2... 21 1/2 @ 22 1/2
PORK—Standard... 14 1/2 @ 15 1/2
BACON—Short Rib Sides... 14 1/2 @ 15 1/2
COTTON—Middling... 15 1/2 @ 16 1/2

LOUISVILLE.
WHEAT—No. 2... 74 1/2 @ 75 1/2
CORN—No. 2... 31 1/2 @ 32 1/2
OATS—No. 2... 21 1/2 @ 22 1/2
PORK—Short Rib... 14 1/2 @ 15 1/2
BACON—Short Rib... 14 1/2 @ 15 1/2
COTTON—Middling... 15 1/2 @ 16 1/2

MEMPHIS.
WHEAT—No. 2... 74 1/2 @ 75 1/2
CORN—No. 2... 31 1/2 @ 32 1/2
OATS—No. 2... 21 1/2 @ 22 1/2
PORK—Short Rib... 14 1/2 @ 15 1/2
BACON—Short Rib... 14 1/2 @ 15 1/2
COTTON—Middling... 15 1/2 @ 16 1/2

INDIANAPOLIS.
WHEAT—No. 2... 74 1/2 @ 75 1/2
CORN—No. 2... 31 1/2 @ 32 1/2
OATS—No. 2... 21 1/2 @ 22 1/2
PORK—Short Rib... 14 1/2 @ 15 1/2
BACON—Short Rib... 14 1/2 @ 15 1/2
COTTON—Middling... 15 1/2 @ 16 1/2

CINCINNATI.
WHEAT—No. 2... 74 1/2 @ 75 1/2
CORN—No. 2... 31 1/2 @ 32 1/2
OATS—No. 2... 21 1/2 @ 22 1/2
PORK—Short Rib... 14 1/2 @ 15 1/2
BACON—Short Rib... 14 1/2 @ 15 1/2
COTTON—Middling... 15 1/2 @ 16 1/2

ST. CINCINNATI.
WHEAT—No. 2... 74 1/2 @ 75 1/2
CORN—No. 2... 31 1/2 @ 32 1/2
OATS—No. 2... 21 1/2 @